



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.1758 | FAX (517) 373.0938  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/cassis/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/cassis/)

For Immediate Release  
May 10, 2004

Contact: Jennifer Hayes  
517-373-1758

## **Sen. Cassis encourages early intervention programs in schools, praises Northville Schools as model**

**LANSING** – Representatives of the Northville Public Schools were praised by Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, when they appeared before the Senate Education Committee Thursday to present their early intervention program to legislators.

“Northville Public Schools are doing an outstanding job helping students at an early age become successful learners,” Cassis said. “This program is a model schools across Michigan should emulate.”

Dr. Bob Sornson, executive director of special services for Northville Public Schools, Casey Reason, assistant superintendent of instructional services for Northville Public Schools and Karen Carney of Eastern Michigan University focused their presentation on the importance of helping children who struggle in school at an early age – before it is too late.

Early intervention programs like the one at Northville allow younger elementary students who are having difficulties to get the help they deserve before a cycle of failure begins. In a typical system, it could take years for a struggling student to qualify for special education. According to Sornson, 94 percent of students placed in special education programs never leave those programs.

The Northville Public Schools early intervention program has become such a success they have reduced the percentage of students receiving special education from 10.2 percent in 1992-93 to 5.65 percent in 2003-04. In 2002-03, the state’s special education student percentage rate was 13.9.

“The numbers speak for themselves – the cost savings, improved student morale and achievement are a testament to Northville’s success,” Cassis said.

###

Editors note: A photo of Sen. Cassis with Drs. Sornson, Carney and Reason is available on the Senate Majority Photowire at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Cassis/Cassis.htm>.